

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3744
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES FOR FARMINGS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to strengthen the farm and non-farm linkages to get higher social gains from the current liberalization policy;
- (b) the steps being taken to reduce marketing costs and increase the real income for farmers;
- (c) whether any pilot projects have been approved by the Government for better management and farmer controlled marketing establishment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): The Government has taken following steps to develop the marketing infrastructure/facilities and improve market organization:

- (i). Minimum price support scheme and market intervention scheme are implemented to ensure remunerative prices to farmers.
- (ii). Cold Storage facilities are being strengthened under a Back-ended Capital Investment Subsidy scheme being implemented by National Horticulture Board.
- (iii). The State Marketing Boards/Departments are engaged in creating/strengthening agricultural marketing infrastructure facilities in the market yards, as well as construction of roads connecting villages with the main roads.
- (iv). State Agricultural Marketing Boards/Departments have established Apni Mandi to provide for direct sale to the consumers by the farmers eliminating middlemen.
- (v). Unwarranted restrictions on the movement of agricultural produce and Acts/Rules hindering private investment in agricultural marketing sector are being reviewed and progressively dismantled.
- (vi). The recommendation made by Expert Committee on Marketing constituted by Ministry of Agriculture are under consideration.
- (vii). The Directorate of Marketing & Inspection is implementing Central Sector Scheme 'Agricultural Marketing Information Network' to establish a nationwide network for speedy collection and dissemination of market information. Under this scheme, computer facilities with internet connectivity have been provided to 210 points (171 important agricultural/horticultural markets and 39 offices of State Agricultural Marketing Boards/Departments) through National Informatics Centre (NIC). The Directorate has proposed to extend this facility to another 500 points during 2001-2002 which is under process. The Marketing information thus provided would facilitate the farmers to dispose of their produce at remunerative price.